

In 1853, seventeen attorneys formed an organization of legal practitioners, creating the Association of the Bar of Bucks County. The organization was incorporated in 1883 and had grown to 40 members. They worked then, as they do now, to improve the welfare of the judicial system, the courts, the administration of justice and service to the public.

Now with more than 700 members, the Bucks County Bar Association has made huge advancements. It now has its own legal journal, the Bucks County Law Report. They also have established a lawyer referral program, Legal Aid Society, and mock trial and law day programs. What once consisted of just 40 members now has 30 committees within the organization. The Bar Association of Bucks County has come a long way since it was incorporated over 100 years ago.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Bucks County Bar Association and its service and dedication to the residents and legal professionals of Bucks County.

#### HONORING ALPENA, MICHIGAN'S STATE RUNNER-UP GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM

#### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the players and coaches of the Alpena High School girl's softball team. They were Michigan state runner-up champs for high school girls' softball in Division I play and I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring the outstanding Alpena Wildcats.

No one can fault the girls for being disappointed after their 14-inning 2–1 loss to the Garden City Cougars in the state championship game. After years of finishing the season at the district tournament, the Alpena High School girls' softball team finally broke away from that barrier and made it all the way to the State final in which they finished second. Their hard-fought advancement to the State Final is a source of great pride not only to the softball team and high school, but also for the Alpena community as a whole.

This championship run was a defining moment in girls' softball for the Alpena area. Head Coach Paul Marwede was quoted as saying "I've been proud of these kids from day one . . . I will be proud of them for the rest of my life." What this girls' softball team accomplished was extraordinarily special and will always be remembered for years to come.

I wish to congratulate each of the players and coaches on a memorable season. These players and coaches include: Rachel Gebauer, Aubrey Kowalski, Kursten Paczkowski, Leah Cox, Nikki Preuss, Alyssa Smith, and Rachel Brown, Allison Keen, Brandy Lancewicz, Kayla Paczkowski, Katie Prevo, Leah Ventimiglia, Head Coach Paul Marwede, assistant coaches Jason Barbeau, Louie Hoppe, Brittney Kirkwood and Christin Sobeck and trainer Brad Nash.

Madam Speaker, as the Alpena High School girls' softball team celebrates a memorable season and a second-place finish, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representa-

tives join with me in congratulating them on this extraordinary accomplishment. This truly is a time in these young women's lives that they will never forget.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SONOMA COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor and acknowledge the Sonoma County Medical Association, SCMA. The SCMA will celebrate its 150th anniversary on November 11, 2008.

Recently discovered documents place the first call to organize the forerunner to the SCMA on April 10, 1858, with the creation of a constitution and by-laws. The group went through at least 2 subsequent reorganizations, the latter being in 1888, which had long been considered by medical historians to be the original founding date of the organization.

From 1888 to 1910 the Sonoma County Medical Society, as it was then called, held monthly meetings around such topics as "The Emotions in Their Relationship to Disease" and "Bubonic Plague: Keeping it Out of Sonoma County." In 1906, the association elected its first woman president, Dr. Anabel Stuart. During both World Wars, 29 percent of the medical society's membership served our country in uniform.

Since 1951, the SCMA has had only 5 full-time administrators or executive directors. Josephine Quayle served as "general helper" until her retirement in 1963. She was succeeded by Norman Brown, who served from 1960 to 1982. Roger Brown served from 1983 to 1989, followed by Torn Wagner from 1989 to 2000 and Cynthia Melody from 2000 to the present.

Over the years, the SCMA has made numerous contributions to the health of Sonoma County. In 1962, the SCMA coordinated a "Knock Out Polio" campaign that resulted in 92.3 percent of the county's population being immunized. From the mid-1970s to the late 1990s, the SCMA created several other affiliated companies that helped increase medical services to county residents, including the Specialty Physicians Association and the Children's Health Network. And, in 2000, the SCMA returned to its roots as a self-sustaining, non-profit county medical association supporting physicians and their efforts to enhance the health of the community.

Madam Speaker, the SMCA has a long history of assisting physicians practicing in Sonoma County and of preserving the well being of county residents. It is appropriate that we honor this distinguished organization and its members for their past accomplishments and wish them well as they continue to work on behalf of the physicians and residents of Sonoma County.

#### U.S. TAIWAN RELATIONS

#### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that the House recently considered and passed H.R. 6646, a bill that would require the Secretary of State to provide Congress with detailed briefings on any recent discussions conducted between the United States Government and the Government of Taiwan and any potential transfer of defense articles or defense services to the Government of Taiwan.

I was proud to cosponsor this legislation, which I hope will end a reported freeze on arms sales to Taiwan. The U.S. and Taiwan have enjoyed a positive economic and political relationship for several decades and it is our duty to make defense articles available to our allies, especially in the Asia Pacific region.

The U.S. Taiwan Relations Act states in Section 2(b)(5) that "it is the policy of the United States to provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character." The same Act specifies in Section 3(b) that Congress has a role in determining the defensive needs of Taiwan. Furthermore, Section 3(b) also states that any determination "shall include review by United States military authorities in connection with recommendations to the President and the Congress." Yet the administration has not reported any recommendations to Congress nor explained why arms sales to Taiwan have been delayed. Since Taiwan's legislature passed its arms budget last year, further inaction by the administration is unnecessary.

As twenty-four Members and I wrote in a letter to President Bush on July 31, "A secure and prosperous Taiwan requires the means to provide for its own self defense and the ability to engage its neighbors without fear of military intimidation." If we are serious about Taiwan's security, we must continue to permit the judicious sale of defensive weapons to our key ally.

H. Res. 6646 provides a framework for maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait by requiring the administration to consult with Congress regarding its arms transfer policy. I applaud the passage of this much-needed legislation.

#### HONORING BILLY JIM VAUGHN

#### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Billy Jim Vaughn as the Brentwood Rotary Club will present him with this year's Community Service Award on October 17, 2008.

For 73 years, Billy Jim Vaughn has served as Scoutmaster for Troop 1, thought to be the oldest continuous Boy Scout troop in the United States. With his love for nature, athletics, and above all other people, Billy Jim has been a part of Troop 1 B.S.A., as a scout and leader, for a total of 82 years. With the pride of a father, Billy Jim has inspired countless young men through scouting by providing the direction, purpose, leadership and teamwork skills needed to develop into strong individuals and community leaders. The entire